

SAR, DAR, C.A.R., Family Descendants, and the Public:  
**INVITATION** to an Historic **Grave Dedication**

# AUSTIN DABNEY

**Freed Slave and Patriot of the American Revolution**

**Jan. 30, 2010, 11:30 A.M.,**

**Pope St., Zebulon, Pike County, Georgia**

Sponsors: Children, Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution,

Giles Harris/Samuel Mitchell descendants,

Pike, Upson, & Lamar County Historical Societies

Atlanta

Zebulon

Augusta

Columbus

Macon

TRAVEL: ATLANTA: I75S So thru Griffin; ; MACON: I75 No thru Forsyth, Barnesville;;

COLUMBUS: US 85 N, GA 36-, 109 and 18.

LODGING: Jameson and Days Inns in Thomaston. Hampton and Days Inn in Griffin

ZEBULON: Courthouse  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi. Hwy 18W; Pope St left  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. PARK.  
Board shuttle or walk  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi. thru woods. Put wreath/chair on truck.  
Heavy rains will move ceremony indoors. Paul for location 404 317-9297.  
BUFFET RECEPTION at Life Springs Church, 4 mi. So. on Hwy 19 at Hwy 109

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PRESENT YOUR WREATH AT AUSTIN DABNEY? E-MAIL NOW

ORGANIZATION/FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ST \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTER \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

HONORING \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

John H. WINSNESS, [jhwinsness@aol.com](mailto:jhwinsness@aol.com), 706 628-4854,  
PO Box 118, Pine Mountain Valley, GA 31823, by Jan. 25 for program.

# ***Pike County, Georgia***

## **PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, Georgia chapters and societies of the Daughters, Children and Sons of the American Revolution, Historical Societies of Pike and Upson County will conduct a public grave marking program in Zebulon, Georgia on Saturday, January 30, 2010 honoring Patriot Austin Dabney a freed slave.

**Whereas**, when the American Revolution moved South in 1778 with the capture of Savannah, there lived in Wilkes County a freed slave named Austin, who enlisted in the Patriot militia as a substitute for his master, took on the name Dabney, and served as a good soldier in many battles and skirmishes with the British and the Tories, and helped his country secure victory over Great Britain in the American Revolution and

**Whereas**, many Georgia books and legends recall that Austin Dabney, when severely wounded while fighting with Col. Elijah Clarke in the battle of Kettle Creek near Washington, Georgia, was taken to the Giles Harris home and cared for until his wounds healed and his life restored, after which he promised himself to never forget the kindness of the Giles Harris family, and

**Whereas**, after the close of the war Austin Dabney acquired land and shared in the prosperity, moved to Madison County, taking his Harris benefactors with him, where he acquired an interest in horse-racing and matters of the turf, attending races, and impressed others with his courtesy, good humor and betting. He helped William, son of Giles Harris, to complete studies at Franklin College (later the University of Georgia) and accompanied the young man to Lexington, Georgia to read law with attorney Stephen Upson, and

**Whereas**, Stephen Upson, now a Representative to the Georgia General Assembly from Lexington sponsored a resolution that provided enough public funds to legally emancipate Austin Dabney and to qualify him for a Federal pension, and

**Whereas**, Austin Dabney moved to Pike County with young William Harris and sister Jane Harris and became a recognized and well-known figure, particularly where horses and racing might be going on, while William began the practice of law, and Jane married next-door neighbor and notable resident Samuel Mitchell, and

**Whereas**, at his death in 1830 Austin Dabney was buried on land he had willed to William Harris and is now known as the Harris plot when William Harris died in 1835 he was buried along side his life long friend Austin Dabney, and

**Whereas**, these historic grave sites have been preserved and maintained by descendants of the Giles Harris and Samuel Mitchell families for 175 years and are to be marked and dedicated at the end of next month in public ceremony by the Children, Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, and the Historical Societies of Pike and Upson County;


**Now Therefore** I, Douglas Mangham, Board Chairman, declare January 30, 2010 to be

## **AUSTIN DABNEY DAY**

And encourage our citizens to pause and recognize a Patriot who by patriotism, courage and sacrifice helped achieve our freedom and to honor all men and women who are serving today.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.

SEAL

  
Douglas Mangham  
Chairman Pike County Commission